

Although this species is caught regularly in the Insect Survey trap at Rowardennan, *f. fusca* has not previously been recorded.

Thanks are extended to R. McMath for operating the trap at Rowardennan.—ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Institute of Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

Hentomological spelling.

I was interested in J.L. Campbell's comment in his book review in the *Entomologist's Record* (1990, **102**: 308) where he points out that the Inner Hebridean island of Rum is not traditionally spelt with an "h". The British seem to have an obsession for adding "h"'s to local names. The apomictic whitebeam *Sorbus devoniensis* is known as "French Ales" by Devon people, the second word deriving from Norman French "alies" meaning "service berries". Non-Devon authors habitually convert the name to "French Hales".

So far as Rum is concerned, can anyone explain why the name of the local race of the Small Heath is spelt as it is: *Coenonympha pamphilus rhoumensis*? Here an "o", as well as an "h" has been added. Did the Romans, or medieval Latinists, call the island "Rhoum" (or "Roum")? It cannot be that Latin demands an "o" before a "u" as English does a "u" after "q", otherwise the scientific name of the Spanish Festoon butterfly would not be spelt as it is — *Zerynthia rumina*. Perhaps the "o" in *rhoumensis* is another misguided attempt to make a short word as long as possible. Or is it simply a mistake like the generic name of St Dabeoc's Heath which must now be permanently spelt "*Daboecia*" because of international taxonomic rules? St Dabeoc was an Irish saint: do the Gaelic languages attract these orthographic adjustments?—PATRICK ROPER, South View, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0PE.

Hypoponera punctatissima (Roger) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) outdoors in a rural Northamptonshire garden.

On 25th August 1990, shortly after coming in from the garden of my house at Hemington, near Oundle, Northants (TL091852), I removed a winged queen *Hypoponera punctatissima* from my beard. Only two species of ant in the subfamily Ponerinae are known to occur in Britain, *Ponera coarctata* (Latr.) is a southern species recorded no further north than Hertfordshire, but Barrett (1979, *Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles*, pt. 5, Biological Records Centre, Huntingdon) did not map what he regarded as "the doubtfully endemic *H. punctatissima*". However, Bolton & Collingwood (1953, *Handbk, Indent. Brit. Ins.* **6**, pt. 3c, Royal Entomological Society of London) decided to "recognise it as an endemic as it has been found on occasion away from human habitations". Records deposited in the Biological Records Centre at Monks Woods Experimental